

WADE HOUSTON
Executive Vice-President
Houston-Johnson, Inc.

Wade Houston was born on October 9, 1944 in Alcoa, Tennessee. Wade graduated from Charles M. Hall high school in 1962 and became the first African-American basketball player to earn a scholarship at the University of Louisville. He graduated from the University of Louisville in 1966 earning a Bachelor's Degree and later a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology.

His career began as a high school basketball coach. Wade guided Male High School to two State tournaments and won the 1974-75 Kentucky State Basketball Championship. In 1975, he began a long and successful association with the University of Louisville. During his tenure, the University of Louisville's Basketball teams appeared in four Final Four competitions, winning the National Championship in both 1980 and 1986.

In 1989, the University of Tennessee hired Wade. He was the first black head coach in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). During his stay at the University of Tennessee, Wade's teams participated in two National Invitational Tournaments and he was named NABC's District 7 Coach of the Year, voted State's Top Coach by the Tennessee Sportswriter's Association, and listed in USA Today as an Honorable Mention selection for its "five best coaching jobs". In March 1994, Wade resigned his position at the University of Tennessee and decided to devote his talents, resources, and energies to his expanding business interests.

The businesses flourished and through a series of acquisitions and transactions, Wade became partners in Active Transportation Co. Automotive Carrier Services, Dallas & Mavis Specialized Carriers, and ATC Leasing Company. The combined entities (JHT Holdings) became the second largest minority owned company in the United States, and the largest minority owned transportation company in North America. In July 2001, Wade divested of his interests in these businesses and began concentrating on developing Houston-Johnson, Inc. - a logistics provider and warehouse management entity that coordinates specific just-in-time activities.

In addition to his business interests, Wade is involved in his church's sports ministry program and is an active supporter of many community activities and programs. He is a member of the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, and the University of Louisville Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Spalding University for his leadership in business and educational endeavors. More recently, Wade was profiled in Passing The Torch a compilation of stories and experiences of Louisville's pioneering leaders. He and his wife Alice were recipients of the 2008 Louisville Urban League's Champion of Diversity Award.

Wade is a Director for Old National Bank, a member of the University of Louisville Athletic Board of Directors, chairs The Ryder Cup Community Relations Committee, co-chaired Governor Steve Beshear's Inauguration Committee, is a member of The First Tee of Louisville, and the Kentuckiana Minority Business Council.

Wade is married to Alice Kean Houston, and the couple has three children: Allan, Lynn, and Natalie. Allan is a retired NBA player, Lynn is an Engineer for Houston-Johnson, Inc., and Natalie is a Dermatologist in Louisville.